

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 42 090. :nb	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/006884	International filing date (day/month/year) 25.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.07.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B22D11/16, B22D11/06			
Applicant SMS DEMAG AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>4</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																								
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/006884

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 3-7 as originally filed/furnished 17.01.2004 with letter
 pages* 1, 2, 2a received by this Authority on of 12.01.2004
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 4-12 as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19 17.01.2004 with letter
 nos.* 1-3 received by this Authority on of 12.01.2004
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets 1/2-2/2 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006884

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																									
<p>1. Statement</p> <table> <tr> <td>Novelty (N)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-12</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inventive step (IS)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-12</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-12</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>			Novelty (N)	Claims	1-12	YES		Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-12	YES		Claims		NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES		Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-12	YES																							
	Claims		NO																							
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-12	YES																							
	Claims		NO																							
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES																							
	Claims		NO																							
<p>2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)</p> <p>1. This report refers to the following documents:</p> <p>D1: EP 0 546 206 A (NIPPON STEEL CORP), 16 June 1993 (1993-06-16)</p> <p>D2: EP 0 677 345 A (THYSSEN STAHL AG; USINOR SACILO (FR)), 18 October 1995 (1995-10-18)</p> <p>D3: US 6 296 046 B1 (KIM DONG KOON ET AL), 2 October 2001 (2001-10-02)</p> <p>2. <u>Novelty and inventive step (PCT Article 33)</u></p> <p>Document D1, which is considered to be the closest prior art, discloses a twin-roll strip casting process in which the aim is to reduce wear on the side walls (column 2, line 53 ff.). This is achieved by advancing the side walls alternately and then keeping them in position (column 3, lines 38 to 50).</p> <p>However, unlike in the present invention, the control system depends not on a predefined time and force, but rather on the amount of wear (column 3, line 39) and the reaction force (column 3, line 51 ff.).</p>																										

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<p>The idea of interrupting the advancing of the side walls in a stop phase at predefined intervals in order to reduce wear is neither known from nor suggested by any of the prior art documents (D1, D2 and D3).</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore considered novel (PCT Article 33(2)) and inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>Claims 2 to 12 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also appear to meet the PCT requirements in respect of novelty and inventive step.</p> <p>3. The description is not consistent with the claims (PCT Rule 5.1(a) (iii)). On page 5 of the description the process is described as a "stop and go" process, whereas in the main claim it is assumed to be a "go and stop" sequence.</p>	